

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Subregion: CENTRAL County: EL DORADO**

**Applicant: THE FOREST FOUNDATION**

**Project Title: CALIFORNIA FORESTRY CHALLENGE**

**Reference Number: SNC 070177**

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The Forestry Challenge is an environmental stewardship education event for high school students. Students from selected urban, suburban, and rural high schools are invited to attend four days of field work and workshops. Student participation will be hands-on, including field trips to various sites for data collection and analysis (including water quality and supply), a night hike with a wildlife biologist, and a trip to a sawmill to learn about renewable biomass energy and green building. Students will develop a land restoration plan for judging, and must explain how their plans safeguard forest and watershed health.

The 2008 Forestry Challenge will be held at Sly Park Environmental Education Center at Pollock Pines. Approximately 165 students from 32 schools that have expressed interest will be transported to, and housed at, the Challenge site. A small fee will be charged to schools that can afford it, but waived for those that cannot. Activities for the successful completion of the project include:

- Develop the program and training materials;
- Confirm trainers, guides, speakers, judges;
- Acquisition of fieldwork supplies;
- Identify, invite, and confirm student participants;
- Transport students to the Challenge / house students;
- Transport students to field sites and on fieldtrips;
- Hold completion and judging of students' land restoration plans.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Schools/students identified, invited, confirmed; study materials mailed to schools; pre-event training conducted at schools	Jan. – Sept. 2008
Program speakers identified and confirmed	June – Oct. 2008
Logistical arrangements made / housing set up	June – Oct. 2008
Training plan developed / field trip design / fieldwork materials purchased	June – Oct. 2008
Competition judges identified and confirmed	June – Oct. 2008
Forestry Challenge held	Oct. 8-11, 2008
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>October 2008</b>

## PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Participant lodging	21,000
Fieldwork supplies/tools	10,000
Charter buses and field trip transportation	4,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 35,000</b>

### Letters of Support:

- none

### Recommendation:

Staff recommendation is to fund this project at the requested amount of \$35,000.

## **Grant Project Summary:**

Provide a summary (one page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the project cost.

### **The 2008 California Forestry Challenge**

The Forestry Challenge is The Forest Foundation's most successful, dynamic, and growing educational program. It provides the ultimate outdoor education experience for California high school students.

The Challenge brings urban, suburban and rural high school students into the forest to work side-by-side with natural resource professionals and public agency representatives. The four-day event exposes students and teachers to the complexities of environmental stewardship, provides an invaluable hands-on learning experience and helps develop critical thinking skills by addressing timely issues. Students learn about forest values that range from healthy watersheds to carbon sequestration and climate change.

The Challenge has hosted as many as 110 students and their teachers from 20 high schools across 10 counties per year. In 2008 The Forestry Challenge will be held at Sly Park Environmental Education Center in Pollock Pines. Prior to the event, students and teachers will receive a classroom visit from Forest Foundation staff in order to explain the learning goals for the event. Teachers are given a resource packet containing forest ecology study materials and information on emerging Sierra Nevada environmental issues. At the Challenge, students will participate in the following activities:

- Field training in small groups with resource professionals who teach forest ecology, data collection, data analysis, water quality and availability.
- Night hike with a wildlife biologist to hoot for owls.
- Workshop on emerging environmental issues such as the role of healthy forests in off-setting atmospheric carbon emissions.
- Workshop on career opportunities in environmental stewardship.
- Field trips to various forest locations near Mormon Emigrant Trail to collect data and assess environmental health of forests under differing management methods.
- Field testing to assess student knowledge of data collection and forest ecology.
- Field trip to a sawmill to learn about renewable biomass energy and green building.

As a culminating activity, students prepare a land restoration plan that addresses a current real-life issue involving our Sierra Nevada forest environment. Student teams present their plans to a panel of judges comprised of community members and resource professionals. Students are required to explain how their plans will safeguard forest and watershed health for future generations.

Through participation in the Forestry Challenge, students garner a better understanding of both the importance and complexities of environmental stewardship in our Sierra Nevada forests. Students confront practicalities such as budget limitations, societal concerns, changing forest composition and varying resource management approaches. The forest provides the ideal environment for teaching about the multiple values provided by the Sierra Nevada.

KCRA-3, Sacramento's NBC affiliate, calls the Challenge "A field trip like no other."

Total Forestry Challenge Cost is \$55,000. We have \$20,000 available through in-kind services and donations. Total grant being requested is \$35,000.